CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method in a data processing system for transcoding
2 content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:
3   receiving a request for the content from a client,
4 wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;
5   selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders
6 having a best match to the set of characteristics; and
7   transcoding the content using the transcoder to form
8 transcoded content.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
       sending the transcoded content to the client.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the set of
characteristics includes a content type and a set of client
characteristics.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the set of
2 characteristics is a tuple including parameters for a
3 document type definition, an application, a device, and a
4 user.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the client is one of a
2 personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, and a personal
3 computer.

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1   6.   A method in a data processing system for transcoding

2   content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:

3   receiving a request for the content, wherein the request

4   includes identification information for a client originating

5   the request;

6   selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders,

7   wherein the transcoder provides a closest match to the

8   identification information; and

9   processing the content using the transcoder.

1   7. The method of claim 6, wherein the identification

2   information comprises a content type and a set of client

3   characteristics.

1   8.   The method of claim 6, wherein the identification

2   information comprises a document type definition, an

3   application, a device, and a user.

1   9.   The method of claim 6 further comprising:

2   sending the transcoded content to the client.

1   10.   The method of claim 6, wherein the client is one of a

2   personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, and a personal

3   computer.

1   11.   A data processing system comprising:

2   a bus system;

3   a communications unit connected to the bus system;

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4   a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory

5   includes as set of instructions; and

6   a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein

7   the processing unit executes the set of instructions to

8   receive a request for the content from a client through the

9   communications unit in which the request includes a set of

10   characteristics, select a transcoder from the set of

11   transcoders have a best match to the set of characteristics,

12   and transcode the content using the transcoder to form

13   transcoded content.

12.   The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the bus
system is a single bus.

13.   The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the bus
system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

14.   The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the
processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

15. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the
communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

1   16.   A data processing system for transcoding content using a

2   set of transcoders, the data processing system comprising:

3   receiving means for receiving a request for the content

4   from a client, wherein the request includes a set of

5   characteristics;

6   selecting means for selecting a transcoder from the set

7   of transcoders having a best match to the set of

8   characteristics; and

9   transcoding means for transcoding the content using the

10   transcoder to form transcoded content.

1   17.   The data processing system of claim 16 further

2   comprising:

3   sending means for sending the transcoded content to the

4   client.

1   18.   The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the set

2   of characteristics includes a content type and a set of

3   client characteristics.

1   19.   The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the set

2   of characteristics is a tuple including parameters for a

3   document type definition, an application, a device, and a

4   user.

1   20.   The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the

2   client is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop

3   computer, and a personal computer.

1   21.   A data processing system for transcoding content using a

2   set of transcoders, the data processing system

3   comprising:

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4   receiving means for receiving a request for the content,

5   wherein the request includes identification information for a

6   client originating the request;

7   selecting means for selecting a transcoder from the set

8   of transcoders, wherein the transcoder provides a closest

9   match to the identification information; and

10   processing means for processing the content using the

11   transcoder.

1   22. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the

2   identification information comprises a content type and a set

3   of client characteristics.

23.   The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the

identification information comprises a document type

definition, an application, a device, and a user.

24.   The data processing system of claim 21 further

comprising:

        sending means for sending the transcoded content to the

client.

1   25.   The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the

2   client is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop

3   computer, and a personal computer.

1   26.   A computer program product in a computer readable medium

2   for use in a data processing system for transcoding content

3   using a set of transcoders, the computer program product comprising:

4   first instructions for receiving a request for the

5   content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of

6   characteristics;

7   second instructions for selecting a transcoder from the

8   set of transcoders having a best match to the set of

9   characteristics; and

10   third instructions for transcoding the content using the

11   transcoder to form transcoded content.

1   27. A computer program product in a computer readable medium

2   for use in a data processing system for transcoding content

3   using a set of transcoders, the computer program product

4   comprising:

5   first instructions for receiving a request for the

6   content, wherein the request includes identification

7   information for a client originating the request;

8   second instructions for selecting a transcoder from the

9   set of transcoders, wherein the transcoder provides a closest

10   match to the identification information; and

11   third instructions for processing the content using the

12   transcoder.